

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-14 EUR-25 DPW-01 NEA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5238

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7071

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: PREPARATION FOR HEARINGS ON ECONOMIC AID BILL

REF: SAIGON 6983

1. IN ORDER TO MEET THE CURRENT PROPAGANDA WHICH CLAIMS THAT THE GVN IS ENCOURAGED BY OUR AID NOT TO ABIDE BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND NOT TO NEGOTIATE A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WITH THE "PRG", WE BELIEVE THE SECRETARY WILL WANT TO HAVE IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION THAT THE GVN IS IN FACT EARNESTLY SEEKING TO IMPLEMENT ALL PARTS OF THE AGREEMENT. FOR THIS PURPOSE WE RECOMMEND THAT THE FOLLOWING POINTS (WHICH EXPAND ON REFTTEL) BE INCORPORATED IN THE STATEMENT:

2. FOREIGN MINISTER BAC'S STATEMENT OF MAY 16 (SAIGON 6410) IN WHICH HE DECLARED: "OUR GOVERNMENT PURSUES A POLICY OF PEACE. IT IS DETERMINED TO STRICTLY RESPECT AND SERIOUSLY IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT OF JANUARY 27, 1973 ON ENDING THE WAR AND RESTORING PEACE IN VIETNAM." BAC WENT ON TO DECLEAR THAT THE GVN IS READY TO RESUME TPJMC MEETINGS IMMEDIATELY AND TO RESUME THE TALKS AT LA CELLE ST. CLOUD AS SOON AS THE OTHER SIDE SHOWS ITS GOODWILL FOR PEACE THROUGH CONCRETE ACTS.

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3. FOREIGN MINISTER BAC'S JANUARY 26 PROPOSAL THAT HE MEET

WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE DRV OR ANY OTHER HIGH-RANKING HANOI REPRESENTATIVE TO NEGOTIATE REESTABLISHMENT OF NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH AS CALLED FOR BY ARTICLE 15 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT (SAIGON 1072). BAC POINTED OUT THAT AT THE MEETINGS THE GVN AND THE DRV COULD DISCUSS MEASURES AIMED AT REDUCING TENSION IN SVN, WHICH WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO ENDING THE WAR. HE REPEATED HIS PROPOSAL ON MAY 16 (SAIGON 6410). BOTH TIMES HANOI SUPERNED BAC'S OFFER.

4. IN APRIL OF 1973 THE GVN DELEGATION AT PARIS PROPOSED A 7-POINT PLAN FOR THE HOLDING OF GENERAL ELECTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT (SAIGON 11449). THIS PROPOSAL WAS RENEWED ON FOUR SUBSEQUENT OCCASIONS, MOST RECENTLY ON MARCH 29, WHEN THE GVN OFFERED A PROGRAM WHICH WOULD LEAD TO GENERAL ELECTIONS ON JULY 20 OR AT AN AGREED EARLY SUBSEQUENT DATE (PARIS 07870). THE "PRG" NEVER SERIOUSLY DISCUSSED THESE GVN PROPOSALS, INSISTING INSTEAD THAT "DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES" BE ENSURED FIRST, A RUSE FOR LICENSING TERRORISM DURING THE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD. THE "PRG" FURTHERMORE HAS NEVER AGREED TO A SPECIFIC DATE FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, TRANSPARENTLY LEAVING THEMSELVES AN "OUT" BY WHICH TO CALL OFF AN ELECTION THEY MIGHT LOSE.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER BAC EXPRESSED THE GVN'S SUPPORT OF THE ICCS IN HIS JANUARY 26 PRESS CONFERENCE (SAIGON 1072) AND AGAIN AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON MAY 16 (SAIGON 6410 AND SAIGON 6411). THE GVN HAS FACILITATED THE WORK OF THE ICCS AND HAS PAID ITS SHARE OF THE ICCS BUDGET. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE GVN'S DETERMINATION TO ASSIST AND COOPERATE WITH THE ICCS IN ITS EFFORT TO CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

6. THE GVN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CEASE-FIRE ON JANUARY 28, 1973, DEPLOYED ITS TEAMS TO ALL JMC/ICCS SITES IN AREAS UNDER ITS CONTROL. THESE GVN TEAMS, CO-LOCATED WITH THE ICCS REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL TEAMS, HAVE COOPERATED WITH THE FACILITATED ICCS ACTIVITIES. NOT ONLY HAS THE "PRG" REFUSED TO DEPLOY TO THE QUARTERS PREPARED FOR THEM BY THE GVN AT THESE SITES, BUT IT HAS ALSO NOT PERMITTED GVN DEPLOYMENT TO SITES IN ITS AREAS OF CONTROL.

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7. ON JANUARY 15 THIS YEAR THE RVN DELEGATION TO THE TPJMC PROPOSED A JOINT APPEAL (SAIGON A-14 AND ENCLOSURE 3) CALLING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FOUR CONCRETE MEASURES WHICH WOULD VIRTUALLY ELIMINATE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AND DRASTICALLY LOWER THE OVERALL LEVEL OF VIOLENCE TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO FURTHER AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC MEASURES TO ACHIEVE AN EFFECTIVELY POLICED, COMPLETE CEASE-FIRE. THE COMMUNISTS REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL OUT-OF-HAND AS A "DIRTY TRICK." THE GVN

REITERATED ITS PROPOSAL ON MARCH 22 (SAIGON 4268).

8. AS A RESULT OF PERSISTENT GVN INITIATIVES, THE SUSPENDED RELEASED OF PRISONERS AND DETAINEES WERE RESUMED ON FEBRUARY 8. THANKS TO GVN PATIENCE AND FLEXIBILITY (SAIGON 2137, 2210, AND 2557) IN THE FACE OF "PRG" EQUIVOCATION AND PROVOCATIONS, THE RELEASES WERE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED (SAIGON 3126). ON MARCH 22, THE GVN CHIEF DELEGATE PROPOSED A TWO-STEP APPROACH TO RESOLVING THE ISSUES OF PRE-CEASE-FIRE MISSING AND POST-CEASE-FIRE PRISONERS (SAIGON 4268). THE "PRG" SPURNED THIS INITIATIVE.
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